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CLAIMS

1. A free-flowing particulate detergent composition or  
component therefor which comprises a bi- or tri- valent  
5 metal ion carboxylic acid salt which, without the salt  
being present, has a hygroscopicity value of greater  
than 25%.
2. A composition or component as claimed in claim 1,  
10 wherein the metal ion is magnesium, calcium, zinc,  
aluminium, lead, iron or mixtures thereof.
3. A composition or component as claimed in claim 1 or  
claim 2, wherein the carboxylic acid salt has from 10  
15 to 22 carbon atoms.
4. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding  
claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is magnesium  
stearate.
- 20 5. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding  
claim, wherein, without the carboxylic acid salt being  
present, has a hygroscopicity value of greater than 5%,  
preferably greater than 10%, more preferably greater  
25 than 20%, or even greater than 30%, or even greater  
than 40% or even greater than 50%.
6. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding  
claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is particulate.

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7. A composition or component as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein the carboxylic acid salt has a number average  
particle size of from 0.1 to 500 micrometres,  
preferably from 1 to 200 micrometres, more preferably  
5 from 2 to 100 micrometres, most preferably from 3 to 50  
micrometres, or even from 3 to 20 micrometres.
8. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding  
claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is present at a  
10 level of from 0.1 to 10 wt%, preferably from 1 to 8  
wt%, more preferably from 2 to 6 wt%.
9. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding  
claim, wherein carboxylic acid salt is present at the  
15 surface of the particles at a higher concentration than  
the average concentration in the composition or  
component.
10. A composition or component as claimed in claim 9,  
20 wherein substantially all of the carboxylic acid salt  
is present at the surface of the particles.
11. A process comprising the step of adding a bi- or tri-  
valent metal ion carboxylic acid salt to a previously  
25 manufactured particulate detergent composition or  
component.
12. A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the  
carboxylic acid salt is particulate and is layered onto  
30 the surface of the detergent composition or component.